



Date: October 1, 2004

From: Clinical Center, Hospital Epidemiology Service (HES)
Office of Research Services, Occupational Medical Service (OMS)

Subject: Live Attenuated Intranasal Influenza Virus Vaccine Statement

To: Direct Patient Care Providers

The influenza vaccine FluMist™ (MedImmune Vaccines Inc.) will not be available through OMS to NIH employees during the 2004-2005 influenza season.

This vaccine, approved by the FDA in June 2003, is recommended for healthy individuals aged 5 to 49 years. The vaccine is not recommended for people who are immunosuppressed, have a history of asthma, or have certain underlying medical conditions, etc. (see the manufacturer's website for more information <http://www.flu-mist.com/>).

Live attenuated virus vaccines contain weakened strains that usually do not cause illness in healthy individuals, however, there is a possibility that they may replicate and cause disease in immunocompromised persons. Shedding of attenuated virus from healthy vaccinated individuals has been documented, and the period of shedding may last as long as 21 days. The manufacturer recommends that "recipients should avoid close contact (e.g. within the same household) with immunocompromised individuals for at least 21 days".

Because many of our patients are at risk for severe complications of influenza, the live attenuated virus vaccine will not be made available to NIH direct patient care staff. In addition, the use of this live attenuated virus vaccine by NIH patient care providers is discouraged. Direct patient care providers who elect to receive FluMist™ elsewhere will be reassigned. Any NIH employee who has direct patient contact and who elects to receive FluMist™ must report to OMS prior to returning to work.